

CLAIMS

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1. An applicator for an animal ear tag including at least two pivotally connected handle members extending into or being attached to first and second jaws, and a driving means comprising a body portion and elongate tag engagement means characterised in that the driving means is pivotally connected adjacent one end of the first jaw member to enable the driving means to pivot about and relative to its pivotal attachment to the first jaw member.
2. An applicator as claimed in claim 1 characterised in that during application of an ear tag the load on the tag engagement means is located behind the point of pivot thereby restraining said tag engagement means in a first position and whereby said tag engagement means is pivotable away from the applicator to a second position once the ear tag has been applied to the animal or upon cessation of movement of the first jaw member, relative to the second jaw member.
3. An applicator as claimed in claims 1 or 2 characterised in that the tag engagement means comprises a pin which in its first position is substantially diagonal to the upper and lower jaw means and is pivotable so as to lie in

substantially the same axis as the upper jaw means upon insertion of an ear tag.

4. An applicator as claimed in any one of the preceding claims characterised in that the movement of the driving means about the point of pivot is determined by restraining means located around said body portion and wherein biasing means assist to restrain the said driving means in a first position.
5. An applicator as claimed in claim 4 characterised in that the body portion of said driving means is polygonal in shape and wherein the biasing means is in contact with at least part of the length of one of the sides of the body portion so as to restrain the said driving means in a predetermined position.
6. An applicator according to any one of the preceding claims characterised in that said second jaw member has formed within it a place to locate a second tag piece as required.
7. An applicator as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the handle members are pivotally connected one to the other; spring means

being provided so that the handle members and jaws are spring biased into a position in which they are normally spaced apart from one another.

- 5 8. An applicator for a livestock ear tag as substantially described herein with reference to any one or more of the accompanying drawings.

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